

REMARKS

Claims 1-44 are currently pending in this application. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the above claim amendments and the following remarks.

In the Drawings

Replacement drawing sheets are provided herewith to address objections found by the Draftsperson and identified on PTO-948. Specifically, formal drawings are provided for Figs. 5e, 5f, 5g, 22 and 23 on the accompanying three Replacement Sheets. In addition, in Fig. 23, reference number "88" has been changed to "588" so as to be consistent with the specification at paragraph [0122]. Entry of the Replacement Sheets and withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

In the Specification

Paragraph [0001] has been amended in accordance with the recommendation of the Examiner.

Claim Objections

Claim 20 has been canceled in response to the objection.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 14, 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious

over U.S. Patent 5,694,939 to Cowings. The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 14, 15 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,162,188 to Barnea.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 2 which was indicated as being allowable. Claims 3, 8 and 13 have each been amended to independent form including the limitations of claim 1 from which each depended. Claims 4- 7 and 9-12 each depends from an amended base claim that was indicated as being allowable. Claims 2 and 14 have been canceled.

Claim 15 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 16 which has been canceled. Claims 17 and 19 have each been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of claim 15. Claims 16, 18 and 20 have been canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2-13, 16, 17 and 19 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. As discussed above, each of these claims is now presented in patentable form.

Claims 21-44 have been allowed.

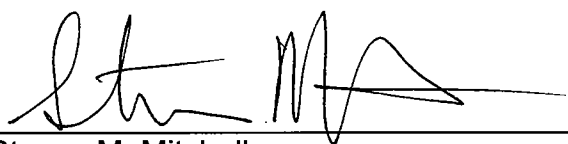
Conclusion

In view of the amendments above, applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance with claims 1, 3-13, 15, 17, 19 and 21-44. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite or assist in the allowance of the present application, the Examiner is invited to call Steven M. Mitchell at (408) 522-6101.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), Applicant hereby requests and authorizes the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to (1) treat any concurrent or future reply that requires a petition for extension of time as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time and (2) charge all required fees, including extension of time fees and fees under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17, to Deposit Account No. 22-0265.

Respectfully submitted,

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